

## Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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### Minutes Monday, March 10, 2008, 9:00 a.m. Town / County Conference Room Mammoth Lakes, CA

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners Present

**Bill Reid, Vice Chair**  
**Hap Hazard, Supervisor**  
**Neil McCarroll, Town Council**  
**Rob Clark, Alternate TOML**  
**Karen Johnston, Alternate TOML**

#### Staff Present

**Scott Burns, Director**  
**Gerry LeFrancois, Planner, Mono County**  
**Gwen Plummer, Planner, Mono County**  
**Bill Manning, TOML**  
**Evan Nikirk, Director, Mono County Public Works**  
**Jennifer Hansen, Secretary**

#### Caltrans

**Brad Mettam**  
**Forest Becket**

#### ESTA

**Jill Batchelder**

*Agenda items may not have been taken in order.*

**The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Reid at 9:15. The pledge of allegiance was led by LTC Director Scott Burns.**

### **1) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comments included discussion from staff member Gwen Plummer regarding the bus shelters. They have been ordered and delivery should be in mid-April. She has asked Caltrans to extend the grant until December. Once the shelters come in, they hopefully will be stored in Mammoth until they can be placed throughout the county.

11:00 a.m. - Commissioner Hazard brought an additional public comment to the table after all agenda items had been covered regarding the debriefing meeting that took place on the winter road closures. This meeting was with all agencies with positive feedback and the willingness to move forward. It was brought up that communication is happening between the agencies but can be improved. The agencies are going to identify the local entities that can help get the information out to the public in a timely response. Vice Chair Reid and Commissioner McCarroll both brought up the CHP escorts and whether these escorts happen routinely or only for certain circumstances to get people out of town. Brad Mettam reported that Caltrans headquarters is aware that their systems do not show information regarding escorts. He reported that their dispatcher gets the information and faxes it to headquarters for them to post. They are in the process of giving their dispatcher the access to post this information directly rather than faxing to headquarters. It was suggested to invite

the new CHP Commander to our next meeting to keep the ball rolling on this and to keep the LTC informed.

## **2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Commissioner McCarroll noted one of the questions posed by Kathy Cage at the February meeting regarding the equipment used by Caltrans today vs. 10 years ago for snow removal. What has changed? Brad Mettam will provide a brief summary of these changes at the next LTC meeting.

Commissioner McCarroll motioned to approve the February 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Alternate Clark. Passed 5-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Clark, Johnston, Reid and McCarroll.

## **3) CALTRANS**

### **a) Roadway Safety Presentation**

Action: Informational – PowerPoint presentation provided information on California's 5% reports, collision data collection, identifying needed improvements and projects.

Brad Mettam conducted a presentation to the Commission on roadway safety. A handout was provided in the Commission packets. The following website has additional information on roadway safety: [www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov/fivepercent/index.htm](http://www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov/fivepercent/index.htm).

### **b) Program Initiation Document (PID) FY 08/09**

Action: Informational - Discussed the current prioritization of District 9's FY 08/09 Project Initiation Document (PID) yearly work plan.

The Program Initiation Document (PID) provides the scope, cost, and schedule of projects in three categories: carryover projects; project priorities; and preliminary investigations. The District PID work plan identifies and prioritizes projects to be worked on in this pre-programming phase. Brad Mettam did an overview of the handout that was provided in the Commission packet.

Commissioner Hazard commented on one of the projects discussed: winterizing the Benton/120 curves. He commended Caltrans on moving forward with the Benton Visioning Process and answering questions by the community. This project is right on target with this process.

It was also mentioned whether or not any of these PID projects could correlate with any MOU projects. Yes, any of these projects could be substitution projects.

### **c) Update on activities in Mono County**

Action: Received an update on information from National, State, and Local resources that are related to activities in Mono County.

Brad Mettam reported that the Freeman Gulch project will be constructed within 3 cycles. Highpoint is still being reevaluated and any changes that happen to this project will be brought back to the communities involved and affected.

## **4) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM & PLAN**

### **a) 2008 STIP/RTIP Update**

Action: Received a verbal update from staff on the submittal of the 2008 RTIP and attendance at the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) meeting.

The RTIP document that was submitted to the CTC was provided to the commissioners in their packets. Gerry Le Francois stated that Supervisor Vikki Magee-Bauer will attend the CTC meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> with Gerry to explain and defend the RTIP. Last month, the commission adopted Resolution 2008-02 which programmed \$13.3 million in projects for local roads and the state highway system. Roughly 15% of the proposed RTIP is devoted to projects on the state system.

Vice Chairman Reid asked if we have alternatives in place if the CTC rejects the RTIP. Brad Mettam stated that the CTC will need to hold a hearing in Mono County if the document is rejected. Mr. Le Francois stated that we will need to make immediate decisions if the document is rejected as the passage of the RTIP will be complete in April; however, most of our projects have been backlogged and we are trying to get them off the books so hopefully it won't be rejected. Commissioner Alternate Johnston asked what the state budget looks like and how it might affect this. Mr. Le Francois stated that the bond measure was passed and it would look bad to cut transportation funding. Mr. Mettam agreed and stated that District 9 is not funded for the state's general fund so they shouldn't be hit too hard. There are no indications that cuts will occur. Commissioner Alternate Clark wanted to know if the CTC staff will make recommendations on the RTIP. Mr. Le Francois said yes but we haven't heard anything on our RTIP yet. A possible recommendation could come by the end of the week. Another update will be given at the next meeting.

## 5) ADMINISTRATION

### a) **Local Transportation Fund Apportionment/Allocation Amendment**

Action: Informational – revised Resolution 2007-08A and 2007-09A will be scheduled for approval at the next meeting.

Scott Burns reported that the revised estimate shows the reduction of \$70,000 from the original estimate provided by the county auditor. The auditor has also issued an estimate for next fiscal year showing \$110,000 less than this year's estimate. Staff will meet for consideration on what to do with this reduction. The draft Resolution 2007-08A and 2007-09A show the short fall of revenues: \$41,000 for the Town of Mammoth Lakes and \$29,000 for Mono County. The Resolution approval will be scheduled for action for next months meeting.

\*The LTF is the local sales tax revenue that is filtered into transportation.

### b) **Overall Work Program Amendment**

Action: Discussed and adopted Minute Order 08-02 amending the 07/08 OWP budget.

Gerry Le Francois stated that the town and county are shifting money amongst work elements. The actual dollar amounts allocated to each entity are not changing. Commissioner Hazard moved to approve Minute Order 08-02 amending the 07/08 Overall Work Program budget for a second time. Seconded by Commissioner McCarroll. Passed 5-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Clark, Johnston, Reid, and McCarroll.

Mr. Le Francois pointed out that the money for the 07/08 cycle needs to be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 or it is re-filtered into another cycle. He is currently working on the Draft 08/09 Overall Work Program. The draft will be available for next months meeting.

## 6) TRANSIT

### a) **Air Resource Board Update on Transit Vehicle Fleet**

Action: Informational item.

Jill Batchelder explained that ESTA has received an extension until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to become compliant with the Transit Fleet requirements. She explained that receiving the extension saved ESTA \$136,000 in FY 07/08 in retrofit costs. ESTA has a plan in place to replace all 15 diesel fueled vehicles prior to the 2010 deadline. The new vehicles will be purchased with Prop 1b funds.

### b) **Update on transit activities in Mono County**

Action: Received an update on information related to transit activities in Mono County.

Jill Batchelder explained that this week is the kickoff week for the Short Range Transit Plan. Another update on this plan will be given at next months meeting. She also reported that with the adjusted time on the Mountain Express route, their preliminary numbers are showing ridership has picked up by about 40% with the new time schedule. She also reported that ESTA

has an ongoing charter bus from Mammoth to June Mountain for employees. This charter runs twice daily. If there are any unfilled seats on this charter, non-employees can ride the charter bus but will pay the charter price.

Vice Chairman Reid brought to ESTA's attention that their 3 transportation buses are generally parked in the Walker Community Center's parking lot and are not being moved when events are held at the center. These buses should be moved to the county yard and this isn't happening. Ms. Batchelder said she will check into this as the buses should be moved. She also mentioned the \$11,000 in the Homeland Security Improvements grant. She suggested that these funds be used for lighting in Walker.

## **7) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a) **Unmet Needs Hearing – scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> in Mammoth Lakes at 9:00 a.m.**  
A notice has been sent to the newspaper and flyers are being dispersed around Mono County communities. If there are any questions, please contact Gwen Plummer.

## **8) SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

## **9) ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. by Vice Chairman Reid.